

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 01163 01 OF 02 081654Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 /128 W

-----018891 081714Z /43

O R 081615Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5393

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 1163

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, NO, UR

SUBJECT: GON REACTION TO WASHINGTON PRESS STORIES ON "GREY ZONE"

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTER, AT THE REQUEST OF PRIME MINISTER
NORDLI, CALLED ME IN ON THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 8 TO DISCUSS
ALLEGED US CONCERN OVER NORWAY'S HANDLING OF HER RELATIONS
WITH THE USSR, PARTICULARLY THE "GREY ZONE" AGREEMENT.

2. THE GON CONCERN WAS TRIGGERED BY A SERIES OF MARCH 8
STORIES OUT OF WASHINGTON (HEGGE IN AFTENPOSTEN, NTB,
NRK), CITING US AND NORWEGIAN SOURCES, WHICH ALLEGED SERIOUS
US MISGIVINGS ABOUT NORWAY'S ABILITY TO HANDLE ITS RELATIONS
WITH THE USSR.

3. INCLUDED IN THE ARTICLES ARE STATEMENTS "THAT THE
US GOVERNMENT DOES NOT SHARE NORWAY'S VIEW OF THE LIMITED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OSLO 01163 01 OF 02 081654Z

IMPORTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT AND BELIEVE IT PUSHES THE
SOVIET AREA OF INTEREST FAR WEST OF THE LINE OF DELINEATION
NORWAY FAVORS." THE PRESS REPORTS TODAY THAT,
AFTER THE EVENSEN MEETING, THE US WENT SO FAR AS TO SEND
AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE CONVERSATION TO OSLO.
THE ARTICLES ALSO REPORT US DISAGREEMENT WITH THE
GON IN REGARD TO THE LATTER'S READINESS TO DEAL BILATERALLY

WITH THE USSR ON SVALBARD ISSUES. EVENSEN IS REPORTED AS REFUSING TO DISCLOSE THE CONTENTS OF THE MEETING.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD ME THAT PRIME MINISTER NORDLI WAS VERY WORRIED BY THE MORNING PRESS STORIES, COMING AS THEY DID THE DAY BEFORE THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE GREY ZONE AGREEMENT. FRYDENLUND STATED THAT THE STORIES COULD MAKE THE GOVERNMENT'S LIFE "EXTREMELY DIFFICULT." HE NOTED THAT READING THE REPORTS HE HAD THE FEELING THAT THE VARIOUS NORWEGIAN CORRESPONDENTS HAD GOTTEN THE SAME BRIEFING FROM SOMEONE--EITHER NORWEGIAN OR AMERICAN--IN WASHINGTON.

HE NOTED THAT THE ARTICLES WERE ACCURATE IN SOME PARTS AND INACCURATE IN OTHERS. SPECIFICALLY, HE THOUGHT THEY WERE INACCURATE WHEN THEY IMPLIED THAT THE USG WAS DISSATISFIED WITH THE GREY ZONE AGREEMENT. FRYDENLUND REMEMBERED THAT HE HAD MENTIONED THE NORWEGIAN GREY ZONE AGREEMENT TO SECRETARY VANCE DURING THEIR MEETING LAST SUMMER AND THAT THE GREY ZONE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED DURING THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE'S VISIT IN OCTOBER. IN BOTH CASES THE AMERICANS HAD CLEARLY STATED THAT THEY VIEWED THE GREY ZONE AGREEMENT AS A BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT. FRYDENLUND SAID THAT HE FELT THIS VIEW HAD BEEN REPEATED DURING THE RECENT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN MR. EVENSEN AND MR. VINE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 01163 01 OF 02 081654Z

5. FRYDENLUND ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE PRESS STORIES WOULD LEAD SOME IN THE LABOR PARTY TO BELIEVE THAT THE USG IS TRYING TO SUPPORT THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION IN NORWAY. FRYDENLUND WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT THIS SINCE THERE IS CURRENTLY A VERY GOOD AMBIANCE WITHIN THE LABOR PARTY TOWARDS THE USG. HE ENDED HIS STATEMENT BY SAYING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS PERPLEXED AND HAD ASKED HIM THIS MORNING WHAT THE INTENTION OF THE USG WAS. DID THE US WANT THE NORWEGIANS TO DROP THE GREY ZONE AGREEMENT?

6. IN REPLY, I STATED THAT WE HAD NO INTENTION OF ASKING THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT TO DROP THE AGREEMENT. WE HAD CONSISTENTLY TOLD THE NORWEGIANS THAT THE GREY ZONE AGREEMENT WAS A PURELY BILATERAL ONE. OUR READING OF THE RECENT VINE-EVENSEN MEETING (STATE 44472) WAS THAT THIS VIEW HAD AGAIN BEEN REPEATED TO MR. EVENSEN. IN ADDITION WE WERE SUPPORTIVE ON THE NORWEGIAN PLANS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FPZ. OUR ONLY INTENTION ALL ALONG HAD BEEN TO REMIND EVERYONE THAT WHEN VIEWING THE LARGER ISSUES IN THE NORTH, THE SOVIET INTENTIONS AND CONCERNS GO BEYOND FISH.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 01163 02 OF 02 081706Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01
CEQ-01 CG-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01
PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 /128 W
-----019017 081714Z /43

O R 081615Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5394
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 OSLO 1163

7. FRYDENLUND THEN ASKED HOW WE COULD PROCEED TO DEAL WITH

THE ISSUE RAISED BY THE PRESS STORIES. HE SAID THE PRIME
MINISTER HAD SUGGESTED THAT A STATEMENT FROM WASHINGTON ABOUT
THE GREY ZONE MIGHT BE USEFUL. IN REPLY I SAID THIS APPEARED
TO ME TO BE THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION THOUGH I WAS
UNCERTAIN IF I WOULD BE ABLE TO GET A CLEARED STATEMENT
IN TIME FOR THE LOCAL PAPERS' THURSDAY MORNING ISSUES. IN
ANY EVENT I AGREED TO TRY AND TOLD FRYDENLUND THAT IN ADDITION
THE EMBASSY HERE, WOULD IN RESPONSE TO CALLS FROM PRESSMEN, MAKE
THE POINT THAT THE USG BELIEVES IT IS INAPPROPRIATE TO COMMENT
ON THE GREY ZONE AGREEMENT WHICH IT CONSIDERS TO BE A BILATERAL
MATTER BETWEEN THE NORWEGIAN AND SOVIET GOVERNMENTS. FRYDENLUND
THANKED ME FOR THIS AND SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN ASKED BY NOR-
WEGIAN TELEVISION IF THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT KNOWS WHAT THE
US REACTION TO THE GREY ZONE IS AND HE INTENDS TO TELL THEM
THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INFORMED THE UPG ABOUT THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OSLO 01163 02 OF 02 081706Z

ZONE AND THEY HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF OUR PLANS AND SAID IT IS A

BILATERAL MATTER. I AGREED WITH THIS FORMULATION.

8. IN CONCLUSION FRYDDNLUND SAID THAT ON REREADING THE VINE-EVENSEN CONVERSATION, IT WAS CLEAR TO HIM THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN WARNINGS FROM THE USG OVER HOW NORWAY PROCEEDS IN THE FUTURE IN ITS DEALINGS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, HOWEVER, THE WAY HE READ IT THESE WERE NOT RELATED TO THE GREY ZONE. IN HIS OPINION, THE JOURNALISTS HAVE MIXED UP THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE USG ABOUT THESE FUTURE DEALINGS WITH VIEWS ABOUT THE GREY ZONE. HE NOTED THAT THE WARNINGS WHICH MR. VINE HAD EXPRESSED HAD BEEN CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT.

9. WE HAVE SINCE HAD CONTACT FROM SEVERAL LOCAL JOURNALISTS ABOUT THE MORNING STORIES AND HAVE TOLD THEM THAT WE CONSIDER THE GREY ZONE TO BE A STRICTLY BILATERAL ISSUE. IN A RELATED MATTER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MAJOR NONSOCIALIST PAPER "AFTENPOSTEN" ON MARCH 9 WILL BRING OUT A STORY CASTIGATING FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN STEEN FOR NOT HAVING REPORTED BACK TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ABOUT THE US VIEWS EXPRESSED TO HIM DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON (STATE 40694). STEEN, WE ARE TOLD, WILL BE ACCUSED OF VIOLATING HIS PARLIAMENTARY ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE BY NOT REPORTING FULLY AND ACCURATELY BACK TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE VIEWS EXPRESSED TO HIM IN WASHINGTON.

10. COMMENT: STARTING SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT THE "GREY ZONE" DEBATE WILL BE POSTPONED (EVEN THOUGH EVENSEN IS STILL SCHEDULED TO GO TO MOSCOW ON MARCH 13). THE RECENT PRESS ARTICLES HAVE REKINDLED INTEREST AND FEELINGS ON THE MATTER. PRIOR TO THE SPATE OF NEWS STORIES ON THE MATTER, THE DEBATE HAD BEEN ALLOTTED ONLY TWO HOURS AND HAD BEEN EX-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 01163 02 OF 02 081706Z

PECTED TO BE A PRO FORMA DISCUSSION. IT NOW APPEARS POSSIBLE THAT A SERIOUS DEBATE, WITH POSSIBLE NEGATIVE REFERENCE TO US INTERESTS AND CONCERNS WILL TAKE PLACE.
LERNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OSLO01163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780104-0787
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780393/aaaadaqf.tel
Line Count: 212
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7bc397cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3405017
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GON REACTION TO WASHINGTON PRESS STORIES ON "GREY ZONE"
TAGS: EFIS, PBOR, NO, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7bc397cb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014